

Message Text

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44

ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 STRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07

FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01

SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

/126 W

----- 026300

O 111240Z FEB 76

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1129

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PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY FOR ACTION

FOR AMB DENT, AMB YEUTTER, STEINBOCK

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: MTN, ETRD

SUBJECT: INSTRUCTIONS FOR FEB 16-20 TROPICAL PRODUCTS MEETING

REF: STATE 31557/1

SUMMARY: MTN DEL BELIEVES OUR PORPOSAL FOR INDIVIDUAL NOTIFICATIONS TO EACH COUNTRY WAS MINUNDERSTOOD AND SHOULD BE RE-EXAMINED. WE DO NOT SHARE TP TASK FORCE RATIONALE FOR FAVORING CIRCULATION OF ONE COMPREHENSIVE LIST. ADDITIONALLY, BASED ON CONTACTS WITH OTHER DC'S, JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA APPARENTLY FAVOR INDIVIDUAL NOTIFICATION. FINALLY, BASED ON PRECEDENT OF KR PROCEDURES FOR TP AND DESIRE OF BRAZIL, INDIA, AND OTHER LEADING LDC'S TO MULTILATERALIZE PROCEDURES FROM OUTSET, WE BELIEVE PROCEDURAL ISSUE OF METHOD OF CIRCULATION IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN BILATERAL FOCUS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE TP NEGOTIATIONS. CONSEQUENTLY, WE REQUEST MORE FLEXIBLE

POSITION WITH RESPECT TO METHOD OF CIRCULATING OFFERS. WE DO NOT WISH TO EXAGGERATE ADVANTAGE OF OUR PROPOSED PROCEDURE OVER THAT IN REFTTEL OR SOME OTHER FORMULATION; BUT WE DO REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS WHICH WOULD PERMIT US TO JOIN CONSENSUS ACCEPTABLE TO MAJOR PARTICIPANTS--BOTH DC AND LDC. END SUMMARY

1. US MTN DEL BELIEVES ITS PROPOSAL ON CIRCULATION OF OFFERS WAS MISUNDERSTOOD SO WE WILL TRY TO CLARIFY IT. WE PROPOSED INDIVIDUAL NOTIFICATIONS OF US OFFER TO EACH COUNTRY. NOTIFICATION WOULD INCLUDE MFN OFFERS BOTH ON PRODUCTS WHICH LDC'S MADE REQUESTS AND PRODUCTS IN WHICH THE COUNTRY HAD TRADE WITH THE US IN THE '72-'74 PERIOD BUT DID NOT MAKE REQUESTS. ADDITIONALLY, PRODUCTS COVERED IN OUR GSP WHICH APPEARED ON REQUEST LISTS WOULD BE IDENTIFIED WITH THE NOTATION "NO INITIAL OFFER" WHEN APPROPRIATE. US CIRCULATION OF THIS NOTIFICATION WOULD BE MADE ONLY TO THE CONCERNED COUNTRY AND WOULD BE COMMUNICATED VIA THE SECRETARIAT. UNDER THIS METHOD OF CIRCULATION, REQUESTING LDC'S WHICH MADE NO REQUESTS ON PRODUCTS OF SIGNIFICANT TRADE VALUE (E.G. BRAZIL, COCOA BUTTER) WOULD BE INFORMED ON ALL PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO THEM WITHOUT BEING INFORMED ON PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO OTHER LDC'S. THIS WOULD REDUCE THEIR INITIAL OPPORTUNITY OF CHAMPION PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO OTHER LDC'S OR EXCHANGE SUPPORT ON DISPARATE ITEMS. ADDITIONALLY, THE "TRADE INTEREST APPROACH" WOULD ENSURE THAT DC'S EXCHANGED LISTS ON ITEMS OF TRADE INTEREST TO OTHER DC'S. PROPOSAL WOULD ALSO HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF MAKING CONSOLIDATION OF OFFERS ON A PRODUCT BASIS DIFFICULT (AN OBJECTIVE WE ARE ANXIOUS TO ACHIEVE) AND WOULD KEEP FOCUS OF DISCUSSION ON A BILATERAL BASIS INITIALLY WHEREAS A SINGLE COMPREHENSIVE LIST WOULD ENCOURAGE MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO AVOID.

2. POSITION PAPER IN REFTTEL OFFERS TWO BASIC REASONS FOR US ESPOUSAL OF A SINGLE COMPREHENSIVE OFFER LIST:

(A) DISCUSSION OF INDIVIDUAL NOTIFICATIONS WOULD INITIATE DEBATE ON RECIPROCITY AND (B) THERE WILL BE NO SUPPORT FOR OTHER DC'S FOR US INITIATIVE TO ACHIEVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY NOTIFICATIONS.

3. WITH RESPECT TO OTHER DC SUPPORT, MTN DEL HAS LEARNED THAT JAPAN CURRENTLY HAS INSTRUCTIONS FROM TOKYO TO FAVOR INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES TO INDIVIDUAL REQUEST LISTS. THE ASUTRALIANS ARE ALSO LIKELY TO TAKE THIS POSITION.

4. UNDER US MTN DEL PROPOSAL, INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY NOTIFICATIONS WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE CIRCULATED GENERALLY. THUS COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE INDICATED THEY PREPARED TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS PRIVATELY WOULD BE LESS SUBJECT TO HOSTILE GROUP PRESSURE UNDER MTN DEL PROPOSAL THAN THAT SET OUT IN REFTEL.

5. GATT DOCUMENT (MTN/TP/W/6ADD.1 OF FEB 6) DESCRIBES KENNEDY ROUND PROCEDURES FOR TROPICAL PRODUCTS. DURING KENNEDY ROUND, DC'S IN COMBINATION TABLED COMPREHENSIVE TP OFFER LISTS. THIS WAS FOLLOWED SUBSEQUENTLY BY A MEETING OF THE GROUP AT WHICH EACH DC EXPLAINED THE EXTENT AND SCOPE OF ITS OFFERS. WE BELIEVE THAT LEADING LDC'S WILL SEEK SAME KIND OF MULTILATERALIZATION OF TP NEGOTIATIONS. IN OUR VIEW, INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY NOTIFICATIONS, AS WE PROPOSE, WOULD MAKE SUCH A STEP LESS LIKELY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEGOTIATION AND THAT, INSTEAD, INDIVIDUAL LDC'S WILL WANT TO CONSULT ON THE US OFFER LIST AS IT AFFECTS THEM BEFORE MULTILATERALIZING PROCEDURES. MAJOR LDC OBJECTIVE, ON THE OTHER HAND, OF KNOWLEDGE OF HOW DC OFFERS AFFECT THEIR TRADE INTERESTS IS ACHIEVED BY MTN DEL PROPOSAL.

6. RE UNCTAD RECEIPT OF OFFERS, WE DISAGREE IT IS FRUITLESS TO OPPOSE. WHILE WE CANNOT PREVENT (AND MIGHT EVEN STATE PUBLICLY WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO) INDIVIDUAL LDC'S REQUESTING UNCTAD SECRETARIAT ASSISTANCE IN ANALYZING OFFER LISTS RECEIVED BY INDIVIDUAL LDC'S, WE BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT LDC'S SHOULD ALSO HAVE OPTION OF ASKING GATT SECRETARIAT ASSISTANCE FOR THIS PURPOSE. IT SEEMS TO US WE ARE SIMPLY ASKING FOR TROUBLE IN VOLUNTEERING UNCTAD ACCESS TO CONFIDENTIAL OFFERS, ESPECIALLY IF OFFERS ARE IN A FORM SUSCEPTIBLE OF OVERALL ANALYSIS AND INVIDIOUS COMPARISONS AS AMONG EFFORTS OF PARTICULAR OFFERING COUNTRIES. MOREOVER, PRECEDENT VALUE OF UNCTAD ACCESS TO CONFIDENTIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OFFERS IN TP CONTEXT WILL CREATE MORE PROBLEMS FOR US IN FUTURE.

7. FOREGOING DESIGNED TO SPELL OUT MORE FULLY REASONS FOR OUR RECOMMENDATION IN MTN GENEVA 593. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THERE ARE MAJOR ADVANTAGES OR DISADVANTAGES FOR US IN EITHER ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION AND WE SEE NO REASON TO TAKE ONUS FOR BLOCKING AGREEMENT--EVEN TEMPORARILY--ON SUBSIDIARY PROCEDURAL ASPECTS OF TP EXERCISE BY INSISTING ON ONE COURSE OF ACTION VERSUS ANOTHER. INSTEAD, WE WOULD LIKE AUTHORIZATION TO EXPRESS US PREFERENCE AS TO CHOICE, BUT ULTIMATELY SUPPORT ANY SOLUTION GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE TO GROUP AS A WHOLE. WALKER

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